



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CITY OF ROCKFORD DEDICATES 9TH FILTRATION PLANT

ROCKFORD – May 3, 2012 - The City of Rockford Water Division dedicated another water filtration plant today. This is the City's 9th filtration plant (of 10 total) to be constructed as part of a Water System Improvement Project that started in 2006.

The new filtration plant will remove radium from the drinking water supply (see information below). It is an addition to an existing wellhouse located at 4141 Samuelson Road and serves the south-east portion of the City. Alderman of the Sixth Ward, Lenny Jacobson believes "Safe water is essential for our community. This investment ensures that our residents have safe water now and for generations to come."

Construction of the filtration plant began in November 2010 and cost \$2.7 million. Funding came through a low-interest (1.25%) loan from the Illinois EPA with 25% of the cost as a grant. The Samuelson Road filtration plant is capable of producing about 1.7 million gallons of filtered water per day. Mayor Morrissey adds that "This filtration plant along with the other improvements made to our drinking water system will ensure that our citizens have safe and reliable drinking water. It is an investment in our future because we must have safe drinking water to attract investment in our community."

The \$75 million Water System Improvement Project is nearly complete with one well remaining. That well will be dedicated in June. Water Superintendent Tim Holdeman reflects that "We have seen dramatic improvements in the water quality and service pressure that we deliver to our customers as a result of this project."

Background

Radium removal from Rockford's drinking water became necessary as a result of increasingly stringent water quality standards set by the US and Illinois EPA. In 2003 the standard for radium in drinking water was reduced from 50 to 5 picocuries per liter (pCi/l). In addition, new regulations required water samples tested for radium to be taken from individual wells rather than from water taps, which is a blend of several wells. There are no sampling results that indicate the tap water in Rockford ever exceeded the 5 pCi/l standard. Nevertheless, Rockford was required to remove radium from the wells with radium levels greater than 5 pCi/l.

There are a total of seven wells with radium levels greater than 5 pCi/l in the Rockford Water System. They are identified below along with the range of radium in them and the plan of action to remediate the wells.

<u>Well No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Radium Level</u>	<u>Corrective Action</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>
10	4316 Newburg	6.0 pCi/l	Filtration	5/1/2012
16	4550 Harrison	8.0 pCi/l	Abandon	12/31/2010
27	5834 Guilford	8.6 pCi/l	Abandon	12/31/2010
29	4750 Pepper	7.4 pCi/l	Filtration	5/25/2010
30	6544 Palo Verde	5.9 pCi/l	Filtration	8/25/2010
36	4141 Samuelson	7.8 pCi/l	Filtration	3/31/2012
43	3447 Publishers	6.1 pCi/l	Filtration	9/30/2010